

April 8, 2014

The Marion County Council held its regularly scheduled meeting, on Tuesday, April 8, 2014 at 9:00 A.M., in the City Council Chambers City Hall, Marion, South Carolina. Members present were Buddy Collins, Chairman; Elista H. Smith, Vice Chairperson; John Q. Atkinson, Jr., Allen W. Floyd, Simon Jenkins, Thomas E. Shaw, and Milton W. Troy, II. Also present were G. Timothy Harper, Administrator; Charles L. McLain III, County Attorney; and Ogleretta D. White. A representative from the Star & Enterprise was not present and duly notified.

Chairman Collins called the meeting to order and asked Councilman Simon Jenkins to lead the Invocation, after which he welcomed visitors and read the Freedom of Information Announcement.

Chairman Collins stated that the minutes for March 27th will be approved on April 24th.

Chairman Collins made sympathy acknowledgement to the Clerk to Council in her absence and her family in their time of loss.

The County Attorney stated that item A. second reading for the ordinance listed on the agenda as follows were not ready: A. Second Reading of Ordinance #2014-03 An Ordinance to Authorize the Lease of the Marion County Tax Parcel Number 121-00-00-033-000, more commonly referred to as the Old Marion County Landfill at Ariel Crossroads to Benjie Andrew for the sole purpose of cattle grazing under the terms of the lease attached hereto and made a part hereof, B. Second Reading of Ordinance #2014-04 To Provide for the Issuance and Sale of a not Exceeding Three Hundred Eighty-Five Thousand Dollar (\$385,000) General Obligation Bond of Marion
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County, South Carolina, To Prescribe the Purposes for Which the Proceeds of Said Bond Shall be Expended, To Provide for the Payment of Said Bond, and Other Matters Relating Thereto, C. First Reading of Ordinance #2014-05, An Ordinance Authorizing the Lease, and all other matters required thereto, of certain Real Property Owned by Marion County Designated as Tax ID Number 055-00-00-121 & 127 to Project NY1.

The County Attorney told Council that item B. on the agenda; Second Reading of Ordinance #2014-04 To Provide for the Issuance and Sale of a not Exceeding Three Hundred Eighty-Five Thousand Dollar (\$385,000) General Obligation Bond of Marion County, South Carolina, To Prescribe the Purposes for Which the Proceeds of Said Bond Shall be Expended, To Provide for the Payment of Said Bond, and Other Matters Relating Thereto was ready: Motion was made by Mr. Atkinson, seconded by Mr. Troy, and carried unanimously, to approve second reading of Ordinance #2014-04.

The County Attorney told Council that item C. on the agenda; First Reading of Ordinance #2014-05, An Ordinance Authorizing the Lease, and all other matters required thereto, of certain Real Property Owned by Marion County Designated as Tax ID Number 055-00-00-121 & 127 to Project NY1 was ready: The County Attorney introduced the title of the ordinance and stated that this constitutes first reading of Ordinance #2014-05.

There were no reports given by Committee #1 or Committee #2.

The County Attorney had nothing to report.

The Administrator had nothing new to report in reference to the New Administration Building.

The Administrator updated Council on the Capital Sales Tax. Mr. Harper told Council that the Court house is scheduled for completion in approximately two weeks. Determination will be made about having the next Council meeting in the newly renovated Court room.

The Administrator presented to Council a Special Agricultural Assessments from the Tax Assessor in reference to Michael Seabrook. Motion was made by Mr. Atkinson, seconded by Mr. Floyd, and carried unanimously.

The Administrator apprised the Council that advertisements were done for request for proposals for the animal shelter. Mr. Harper also reports receipt of the information presented to Council on the status to information requested annually by the County of

Paws to the Rescue, the current contracted provider. Questions and discussion ensued as follows: Vice Chairperson Smith acknowledged that the breakdown of the donations was not noted, and requested that this information be provided. Vice Chairperson Smith further stated that the “salaries” do not disclose information necessary to discern how many employees or what positions represent this amount. She requests that the contractor provides the number of employees and salaries representative of those positions.

Mr. Floyd acknowledged the omission of an audit. He asked, Mr. Harper if this was not an item that was requested. Attorney McLain reminded them of the committee meeting and based on the relationship currently established by the contract an audit was not required.

Vice Chairperson Smith further added that all information concerning the budget should reflect all assets and expenditures. She wants that information to be included.

The Administrator reported to Council that upon the discovery of employees it was reported to him that there was some type of construction beginning at the animal shelter site. Upon his investigation, he gleaned from Ms. Nall that they were in the process of laying a foundation for more animal cages. This was an unpermitted construction and an order to cease and desist was imposed by Code Enforcement. Hence, Ms. Nall is requesting approval for the construction of a 20X60 concrete slab with drainage for cleaning cages. Mr. Harper asked that Council take into account if they approve of the work was the issues concerning the current sewer system’s maintenance. This system is working currently over capacity and because of the large amounts of solids collected in the septic tank it must be maintained more frequently. The waste removals cost have been \$600.00. Therefore, he asks Council that any costs occurred as a result of waste removal become the financial responsibility of the contracted provider.

Mr. Shaw addressed his concern of having construction done by the current contracted provider so close to the end of the contracted period.

Vice Chairperson Smith requested more information about line items or breakout about the “adopted/rescued” information. Motion was made not to approve the construction for Paws to the Rescue. Motion was made by Mr. Floyd, seconded by Mr. Jenkins, and carried unanimously.

The Administrator reminded Council about the Great American Clean Up: Mr. Harper referred to the flyer for the Great American Clean up. He asked them to disseminate the information.

The Administrator presented to Council information in reference to the Legislative Alert: Mr. Harper told Council that the County Association is planning measures to address the concern of the Local Government Fund and contacting the senators.

The Administrator updated Council on the winter storm cleanup. Mr. Harper stated the clean up was going well. He is concern about the funding approval amount which is determined by the Governor. If the Governor does not resolute cleanup cost to the state at 100%, the County will have to match these costs from 15-25%.

Motion was made by Vice Chairperson Smith, seconded by Mr. Jenkins, to adopt the Fair Housing Resolution designated April 2014 as fair housing month. The motion carried unanimously.

Motion was made by Mr. Troy, seconded by Mr. Floyd, to award the bid in reference to Tollison & Elementary Gym Renovations to North Lake Contractor in the amount of \$1,495,000.00.

Vice Chairperson Smith requested an update of PDRTA- They will operate until June 31 at which time the issue of funding will need to be re-visited.

Mr. Harper announced that Capital Sales Tax revenues exceeded the projections. Mr. Shaw inquired about the status of the Southern County's projects. Mr. Harper informed him that they were addressing the deed.

Mr. Atkinson asked that more attention is given to the County roads. Mr. Harper reported that 4 staff was now assigned to the roads. And the interviews were going to begin at this week and end on next week. Mr. Atkinson asked about the status of the road cleanup and advised that the time be extended for completion of the work.

Mr. Troy was concern about the ditches and the debris in them following the storm. Mr. Harper stated that they will clean up the debris and then assess and clean the ditches. Mr. Troy was concerned about the beavers. Mr. Harper stated there is no one under contract for this presently; however, he assessed this route and cost projections for beaver eradication is about \$51,000.

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Vice Chairperson Smith requested update and assurances on the job descriptions and PIP being complete. Also, she wanted to be certain that all job descriptions were in the same format. Mr. Harper deferred to Kent Williams. Mr. Williams explained that he had met with Ms. Katherine Bell and that all things were progressing. They are reviewing the job descriptions.

Mr. Floyd asked Senator Williams for a progress report on the Local Government Fund. The Senator reported that there will be no additional cuts. He explained that the Finance Committee has made list of 3 Priorities and the LGF is one of them. They will meet to construct the budget and due to the importance that quality Infrastructure plays in tourism and jobs, they are trying to increase the DOT budget by 1.5 billion.

Mr. Troy asked for a status report on water and sewer in the unincorporated areas. Mr. Harper recommended an approach to achieve this by having a meeting. M. Troy made a motion to have a committee to meet with Grand Strand which would include the Chair and Vice Chair, the Attorney, County Administrator, Economic Director and the Deputy County Administrator. The motion was seconded by Atkinson, and carried unanimously.

Mr. Shaw asked for a status update on the Mace/ Friendship Park negotiations. Mr. Harper stated that he spoke with both Mr. Mace and the son. They were to get back with him, which had not occurred at this time.

Chairman Collins instructed that Mr. Harper address the issue of beavers so that there could be a plan and method for eradication. Upon the advisement of Attorney and Mr. Harper, the approach would be an individual assessment of the complaints to ensure that the County is within the perimeters of the law as well as its authority. Further, Mr. Harper added that Catfish Swamp's flooding is currently the result of beavers and that it is his assessment that because of its impact on the State owned road it lies within the prevue of DOT. Mr. Harper will meet schedule a meeting this week.

There was Executive Session.

There being no further business to discuss, motion was made by Vice Chairperson Smith, seconded, by Mr. Atkinson, to adjourn the meeting at approximately 10:45 A.M.

Buddy Collins, Chairman

Elista H. Smith Vice Chairperson

John Q. Atkinson, Jr.

Allen W. Floyd

Simon Jenkins, Chaplain

Thomas E. Shaw

Milton W. Troy, II

G. Timothy Harper, Administrator

Charles L. McLain, III County Attorney

(absent)
Sabrina Davis, Clerk to Council